



Heather Canarecci &lt;heather.canarecci2@wyo.gov&gt;

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## Fwd: recent mailing about reporting abortions

1 message

**Alexia Harrist** <alexia.harrist1@wyo.gov>  
To: Heather Canarecci <heather.canarecci2@wyo.gov>

Thu, Aug 8, 2019 at 11:05 AM

Inquiry from a physician about the definition of abortion after we sent out the letter with the statutory changes through the board of medicine.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Vaughn Morgan** <vmorgan@chccw.org>  
Date: Wed, Jul 3, 2019 at 3:52 PM  
Subject: RE: recent mailing about reporting abortions  
To: Alexia Harrist <alexia.harrist1@wyo.gov>

Thank you! Makes perfect sense!

Vaughn

**From:** Alexia Harrist <alexia.harrist1@wyo.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 3, 2019 3:35 PM  
**To:** Kevin Bohnenblust <kevin.bohnenblust@wyo.gov>  
**Cc:** BOM Wyomedboard <wyomedboard@wyo.gov>; Vaughn Morgan <vmorgan@chccw.org>  
**Subject:** Re: recent mailing about reporting abortions

Hello Dr. Morgan,

Thanks for your question.

Wyoming statute 35-6-101 defines abortion in the following way: "Abortion" means an act, procedure, device or prescription administered to or prescribed for a pregnant woman by any person with knowledge of the pregnancy, including the pregnant woman herself, with the intent of producing the premature expulsion, removal or termination of a human embryo or fetus..."

So yes, medication-induced abortions (for example with mifepristone/misoprostol) are considered abortions and need to be reported under state statute.

However, emergency contraception (e.g. morning after pills or copper IUD) prevents ovulation or fertilization of an ovulated egg and therefore is not defined as an abortion (there was never formation of an embryo).

I hope this is helpful - please let me know if you have any other questions.

Ali

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Alexia Harrist MD, PhD

State Epidemiologist and State Health Officer

Wyoming Department of Health

Office: 307-777-7716

Cell: 307-214-8108

On Wed, Jul 3, 2019 at 3:01 PM Kevin Bohnenblust <[kevin.bohnenblust@wyo.gov](mailto:kevin.bohnenblust@wyo.gov)> wrote:

Dr. Morgan -

That is a good question. I believe the best person to answer that for you would be Dr. Alexia Harrist, the State Health Officer. I am copying her in on this e-mail.

Best regards,

Kevin Bohnenblust

Executive Director

Wyoming Board of Medicine

On Wed, Jul 3, 2019 at 2:43 PM BOM Wyomedboard <[wyomedboard@wyo.gov](mailto:wyomedboard@wyo.gov)> wrote:

Thank you,

**Wyoming Board of Medicine**

[130 Hobbs Ave., Suite A](http://wyomedboard.wyo.gov)

[Cheyenne, WY 82002](http://wyomedboard.wyo.gov)

P: (307) 778-7053

F: (307) 778-2069

<http://wyomedboard.wyo.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Vaughn Morgan <[vmorgan@chccw.org](mailto:vmorgan@chccw.org)>  
Date: Wed, Jul 3, 2019 at 2:43 PM  
Subject: Re: recent mailing about reporting abortions  
To: [wyomedboard@wyo.gov](mailto:wyomedboard@wyo.gov) <[wyomedboard@wyo.gov](mailto:wyomedboard@wyo.gov)>

Question: (and I don't perform abortions at all; just wondering)—is this statute for surgical abortion only, or also for medically induced abortion?

I would presume that the 'morning after pill' is not defined as an abortion?

Thanks,

Vaughn Morgan, MD



**Vaughn Morgan, MD**

Email: [vmorgan@chccw.org](mailto:vmorgan@chccw.org)

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